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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/017,927	12/18/2001	Takashi Yazu	32014-177339	1477
20987	7590	02/09/2006	EXAMINER	
VOLENTINE FRANCOS, & WHITT PLLC ONE FREEDOM SQUARE 11951 FREEDOM DRIVE SUITE 1260 RESTON, VA 20190			ARMSTRONG, ANGELA A	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2654

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/017,927	YAZU, TAKASHI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Angela A. Armstrong	2654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 November 2005.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
2. Regarding claims 1-3, applicant claims “a first detection module that detects a paragraph section having a recurrent string pattern based on a character column in one line, wherein the recurrent string pattern comprises a plurality of strings each including a plurality of kinds of symbols; and a voice synthesis module for performing voice synthesis for a rest of the character column, after deleting the paragraph section from the character column.” It is unclear as to what applicant regards as a “paragraph section,” as “a character column in one line,” or “a rest of the character column.” It is unclear as to what or how the paragraph or “recurrent string” is detected based on the character column in one line. It is unclear how a paragraph section is deleted from a character column, as it is not known if a paragraph section is comprised of character columns or if the character column is comprised of multiple paragraph sections. Hence, it is unclear what is synthesized for output if the paragraph is deleted.
3. Regarding claims 4-6, applicant claims “a first detection module that detects symmetry of a row of a symbol character column based on a character column in one line; and a voice synthesis module for performing voice synthesis for a rest of the

character column, after deleting symbol character column intervals from the character column that have been detected as having symmetry by said detection module.” It is unclear as to what applicant regards as “symmetry of a row of a symbol character,” “a character column in one line”, or “a rest of the character column.” It is unclear as to what or how “symmetry of a row of a symbol character” is detected based on a character column in one line. It is unclear how a symmetry of a row of a symbol character is deleted from a character column, as it is not known if a row of a symbol character is comprised of character columns or if the character column is comprised of multiple rows of symbol characters. Hence, it is unclear what is synthesized for output if the row of symbol characters is deleted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamada (US Patent No. 6,411,931).

5. Regarding claim 1, Yamada discloses an apparatus for converting character data into audio data (col. 5, line 24 to col. 8, line 19) and teaches a first detection module that detects a paragraph section having a recurrent string pattern based on a character column

in one line, wherein the recurrent string pattern comprises a plurality of strings each including a plurality of kinds of symbols (Figure 3, elements 21,22); and a voice synthesis module for performing voice synthesis for a rest of the character column, after deleting the paragraph section from the character column (col. 5, line 24 to col. 8, line 19).

Regarding claim 2, Yamada teaches the recurrent string pattern is comprised of one kind of symbol that is repeated a plurality of times and another kind of symbol (Figure 3, elements 21,22).

Regarding claim 3, Yamada teaches the paragraph section includes another kind of symbol added as a last character of the character column, at an end of the recurrent string pattern (Figure 3, elements 21,22).

Regarding claim 4, Yamada discloses an apparatus for converting character data into audio data (col. 5, line 24 to col. 8, line 19) and teaches a first detection module that detects symmetry of a row of a symbol character column based on a character column in one line (Figure 3, element 21,22); and a voice synthesis module for performing voice synthesis for a rest of the character column, after deleting symbol character column intervals from the character column that have been detected as having symmetry by said detection module (col. 5, line 24 to col. 8, line 19).

Regarding claim 5, Yamada teaches respective symbols (< and >) of symbol character column intervals have symmetry with respect to shape (Figure 3, element 21,22).

Regarding claim 6, Yamada teaches a count module for counting up when a pair of symbols at symmetrical positions within the character column have the same shape,

whereby the detection module deletes respective strings of symbol characters as the symbol character column intervals when said count value is a predetermined value (col. 8, lines 11-19).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angela A. Armstrong whose telephone number is 571-272-7598. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 11:30-8:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on 571-272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Angela A Armstrong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2654

AAA
February 2, 2006